



**Corporate
Europe
Observatory**

Fossil fuel industry's lobbying in EU climate and energy policies

Who are the lobbyists ?

- **Corporations**
- **Industry lobby groups**
 - Trade associations (IOPG – International association of Oil&Gas Producers- , Eurogas, Gas Infrastructure Europe etc)
 - Cross-sectoral lobby groups (Cefic -European chemical industry council-, BusinessEurope)
- **Lobby consultancies** (Fleishman Hillard, FTI Consulting)
- **Think tanks** (CEPS -Center for European Policies Studies)

Biggest EU lobby spenders

Among 30 biggest lobby spenders (cross sectoral) -lobbyfacts.eu :

- **European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) > 10,000,000€**

Members include BP, Bayer, ExxonMobil, Repsol, Shell, Total. Different types of membership: check on their [website](#) for specific national related sectoral businesses or National non-governmental federations

- **FTI Consulting Belgium 6,750,000 – 6,999,999€**

Members include GasNaturally, Eurogas (member of Gasnaturally)

- **Fleishman Hillard 6,750,000 – 6,999,999€**

Members include : IOGP, Cefic, ENTSOG, FuelsEurope, Iberdrola

- **Shell companies 4,500,000 4,749,00€**

- **BusinessEurope 4,000,000 – 4,249,999€**

Members include national industry associations (Medef, Cofindustria).
Corporate Advisory and Support Group includes BP, ExxonMobil, Shell and Total, as well as EDF, Engie, ENI, Equinor, Lukoil, OMV and Repsol.

Lobby strategies

- **Access to decision makers -number of lobby meetings**
 - Business Europe = 1st lobby group with most meetings with the EU Commission: 276 meetings in 2019
European Chemical Industry Council = 20th position. 107 meetings in 2019

Important : - access gap between FF indutry and public interest groups
- transparency issues (numbers of meetings + content)

- **Expert groups**
 - Over 1,000 Comission advisory groups. Many dominated by industry.
Ex : Innovation Fund Expert Group (include Cefic, Hydrogen Europe, ZEP – members of those groups include Shell, BP, Total)
<https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/>

Lobby strategies

- **European Energy Forum**
 - Funded by fossil fuel giants (Shell, BP RWE)
 - Brings MEPs, Commissioners, and business representatives together for ‘informal debate and discussion’.
 - Offers « off-the-radar » lobbying space
- **Revolving doors**
 - Look at key Climate/energy Commission’s cabinets and MEPs
Ex : Aleksandra Tomczak – Timmermans cabinet – comes from the World Coal Association & most target by fossil fuel industry
- **Sponsored events** (media sponsored events – Politico energy vision series ; Euractiv)

Hot topics for fossil fuel industry's lobbying

- **Gas**

- From EGD to covid recovery package and now revision of the EU's gas infrastructure regulation (role of ENTSOG – The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas -made of gas industry facilities companies)

- **Hydrogen**

- 'promise' of green hydrogen will allow fossil-based hydrogen to expand through massive investments in infrastructure.
(follow hydrogen strategy - Clean Hydrogen Alliance)

- **Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS)**

- keep the current energy model alive – big money at stake. Big oil to support and ask investment support

Examples of lobbying : European Green Deal & Covid crisis

Push for gas is a core demand of the fossil fuel industry for the EGD. Usual oil and gas suspects but also gas transmission operators (Enagás, Fluxys, SNAM, Gas Infrastructure Europe, ENTSO-G) [See « who owns all the pipelines » - CEO -2019](#)

- April 2020 : Eurogas, Hydrogen Europe, ENTSO-G et al wrote to the EU institutions requesting decarbonised gases be a “central pillar of the stimulus package”
- May 2020 : IOGP wrote to MEPs to share its recommendations ahead of a recovery plan’s meeting. Demanded public support for CCS and hydrogen.
- June : ExxonMobil, FuelsEurope, PGNiG, Eni and GasNaturally, wrote to European Commission President von der Leyen urging “the EU to invest in all hydrogen technologies”

Examples of lobbying : European Green Deal & Covid crisis

This lobbying has already paid off :

- National recovery plans open the door to Fossil fuel projects
- European Central Bank bailing out fossil fuel giants : By June 2020, **€7 billion into fossil fuels**
- State of the Union speech by von der Leyen in support of « hydrogen valleys »
- This week : vote on the Resilience and Recovery Facility – core element of the « Next generation EU » fund : 672 billion euros : will include gas
- To follow : TEN-E revision

THANK YOU !



**Corporate
Europe
Observatory**